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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-15 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A vacuum cleaner comprising a suction port body having a suction port, an electric blower for generating suction air, a connection pipe connected to the suction port body, and a cyclone type dust collecting part, disposed between the suction port body and the electric blower, for separating dust by forming the introduced suction air into a whirling stream and collecting the separated dust in a dust collecting chamber arranged in a suction air passage,

wherein a suction air guide is provided that comprises a cylindrical portion substantially cylindrical in shape which is fitted on a top portion of the dust collecting chamber and which has an exhaust portion formed so as to protrude from a center of a ceiling surface thereof into the dust collecting chamber, said exhaust portion being arranged substantially perpendicularly to the flow-in portion and a filter is provided in an exhaust port formed in a peripheral surface of the exhaust portion, a ~~connoting~~ connecting portion ~~that is~~ connected to the ~~connectin~~ connection pipe, and a flow-in portion that couples the cylindrical portion and the connecting portion together so as to permit dust to be introduced tangentially to the dust collecting chamber.

Claims 17-19 (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented): A vacuum cleaner comprising a suction port body having a suction port, an electric blower for generating suction air, a connection pipe connected to the suction port body, and a cyclone type dust collecting part, disposed between the suction port body and the electric blower, for forming the suction air introduced through a flow-in port into a whirling stream so as to separate dust and then discharging the suction air through an exhaust port,

wherein the cyclone type dust collecting part has a first dust collecting chamber and a second dust collecting chamber, both cylindrical in shape, for accommodating the separated dust, the first and second dust collecting chambers being arranged side by side along an axis thereof and separated from each other by a partition wall having an opening part formed therein.

21. (Previously Presented): A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 20,

wherein a suction air guide is provided that comprises a cylindrical portion substantially cylindrical in shape which is fitted on a top portion of the first dust collecting chamber and which has an exhaust portion formed so as to protrude from a center of a ceiling surface thereof into the first dust collecting chamber, a connoting portion that is connected to the connection pipe, and a flow-in portion that couples the cylindrical portion and the connecting portion

together so as to permit dust to be introduced tangentially to the first dust collecting chamber.

22. (Previously Presented): A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the first dust collecting chamber is arranged within a suction air passage of the cyclone type dust collecting part, and the second dust collecting chamber is arranged outside the suction air passage of the cyclone type dust collecting part.

23. (Previously Presented): A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the first and second dust collecting chambers are arranged so as to be detachable from the cyclone type dust collecting part.

24. (Previously Presented): A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein at least part of the first and second dust collecting chambers is formed out of a transparent member that permits an inside to be viewed from outside.

25. (Previously Presented): A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein a valve for closing the flow-in port when the electric blower is at rest is provided.

26. (Previously Presented): A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the exhaust portion is arranged substantially perpendicularly to the flow-in portion, and a filter is provided in the exhaust port formed in a peripheral surface of the exhaust portion.

27. (Previously Presented): A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the exhaust port is provided in a cylindrical surface of an inner cylinder that is slidable inside an outer cylinder that is provided so as to protrude into the first dust collecting chamber, and, when the exhaust port is clogged, the exhaust port is covered by the outer cylinder under a suction force of the electric blower.

28. (Currently Amended): A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein a pressure sensor for detecting a pressure difference between in a suction air passage of the cyclone type dust collecting part and in an exhaust passage for the suction ~~ai~~ air exhausted through the exhaust port is provided.

29. (Previously Presented): A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the cyclone type dust collecting part is arranged substantially parallel to the connection pipe and on a side of the connection pipe opposite to a floor surface, and the opening part is provided away from the connecting pipe.

30. (Previously Presented) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the cyclone type dust collecting part is arranged substantially parallel to the connecting pipe, and part of the connection pipe is bent so as to form a handle part to be held by a user during cleaning.

31. (Previously Presented): A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 21,

wherein the electric blower and the cyclone type dust collecting part are so arranged as to communicate with each other through a flexible communicating pipe.

32. (New): A vacuum cleaner comprising a suction port body having a suction port, an electric blower for generating suction air, a connection pipe connected to the suction port body, and a cyclone type dust collecting part, disposed between the suction port body and the electric blower, for separating dust by forming the introduced suction air into a whirling stream and collecting the separated dust in a dust collecting chamber arranged in a suction air passage, said cyclone type dust collecting part being arranged substantially parallel to the connection pipe, and part of the connection pipe being bent so as to form a handle part that runs along a peripheral surface of the cyclone type dust collecting part with a gap secured inbetween that permits insertion of fingers of a user,

wherein a suction air guide is provided that comprises a cylindrical portion substantially cylindrical in shape which is fitted on a top portion of the

dust collecting chamber and which has an exhaust portion formed so as to protrude from a center of a ceiling surface thereof into the dust collecting chamber, a connecting portion connected to the connection pipe, and a flow-in portion that couples the cylindrical portion and the connecting portion together so as to permit dust to be introduced tangentially to the dust collecting chamber.

33. (New): A vacuum cleaner comprising a suction port body having a suction port, an electric blower for generating suction air, a connection pipe connected to the suction port body, and a cyclone type dust collecting part, disposed between the suction port body and the electric blower, for separating dust by forming the introduced suction air into a whirling stream and collecting the separated dust in a dust collecting chamber arranged in a suction air passage, said electric blower and said cyclone type dust collecting part being arranged as to communicate with each other through a flexible communicating pipe,

wherein a suction air guide is provided that comprises a cylindrical portion substantially cylindrical in shape which is fitted on a top portion of the dust collecting chamber and which has an exhaust portion formed so as to protrude from a center of a ceiling surface thereof into the dust collecting chamber, a connecting portion connected to the connection pipe, and a flow-in portion that couples the cylindrical portion and the connecting portion together so as to permit dust to be introduced tangentially to the dust collecting chamber.

34. (New): The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 20,

wherein, at the opening part of the partition wall, a rib is formed so as to prevent backflow to the dust collected in the second dust collecting chamber.

35.(New): The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 20,

wherein the first and second dust collecting chambers are separable from each other.

36. (New): The vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 20,

wherein a bottom part of the second dust collecting chamber is formed into an openable lid.

In the Abstract of the Disclosure:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as shown in the following amended Abstract. A replacement page containing the amended Abstract of the Disclosure is attached to this Amendment.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A vacuum cleaning including ~~comprising~~ a suction port body having a suction port, an electric blower generating suction air, a connection pipe connected to the suction port body, and a cyclone type dust collecting part which is disposed between the suction port body and the electric blower and exhausts suction air from an exhaust port after the suction air ~~flowed in~~ added from a flow-in port is swirled so as to separate dust and dirt, wherein a first dust collecting chamber and a second dust collecting chamber storing the separated dust and dirt are provided coaxially with each other through a partition wall having an opening part, whereby a cyclone dust collecting part can be reduced in size, the controllability for refuse disposal can be increased, and the electric blower can be prevented from being damaged.